TION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Out of the seven State Capitals of North-Eastern region, at present, only Guwahati and Imphal are directly connected by Indian Airlines with Delhi. Convenient connections have, however, been provided by Indian Airlines over Calcutta for the passengers desirous of travelling between Agartala and Delhi. The runways at Shilong, Itanagar, Kohima and Aizwal, at present, are not suitable for operation by aircraft type available in the fleet of Indian Airlines. However, private operators are being encouraged to add more stations in their network including these stations.

Disinvestment of the equity capital in AI and IA

2422. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to disinvest the equity capital in Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of equity capital proposed to be disinvested;

(d) whether any plan has been drawn up for the expansion of Air India and Indian Airlines in the context of disinvestment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (e) Air India Limited figures in the list of 40 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) referred by the Government to the Disinvestment Commission for drawing up a comprehensive and long term disinvestment programme for these PSEs.

At present, there is no proposal to disinvest the equity capital in Indian Airlines.

मध्य प्रदेश में सिंगरौलिया हवाई-पट्टी का समतलीकरण किया जाना और उसके चारों ओर बाड़ (फेंसिंग) लगाया जाना

2423. **श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जिला सीधी (मध्य प्रदेश के वैढन (सिंगरौली) में सिंगरौलिया हवाई पट्टी हेतु भूमि के समतलीकरण और बाड़ लगाने का कार्य पूरा कर लिया गया है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इंडियन एयरलाइन्स, एयर इंडिया और भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण से स्वीकृति प्राप्त कर लेने के बाद भी इस हवाई पट्टी का निर्माण कार्य पूरा नहीं किया गया है; और

(ग) शीघ्र विमान-सेवा आरम्भ करने हेतु उपर्युक्त विषय के संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० इब्राहीम): (क) से (ग) सिंगरौलिया हवाई पट्टी मध्य प्रदेश राज्य सरकार की है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकारण की इस हवाई पट्टी के विकास की कोई योजनाएं नहीं हैं।

Installation of Superior Quality Transponders at Indian Airports

2424. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the installation of superior quality transponders could have averted the recent collision between a Saudi Arab Airways plane and a Kazhakistan plane resulting in heavy loss of lives;

(b) if so, the reasons for the non-installation of such transponders at Indian Airports; and

(c) other measures proposed to avert tragedies of such nature in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) Reasons for this accident are being investigated by a

Court of Inquiry and it is not possible to give any definite view at this stage.

(b) 'S' Mode Transponders are fitted in the aircraft. The corresponding land based equipment called Secondary Surveillance Radars (SSRs) have already been commissioned at Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram Airports. Installation of SSRs at Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Madras and Guwahati will be completed in 1997. Modernisation of Air Traffic Control system at Delhi and Bombay airports at an estimated cost of Rs. 423.89 crores has been taken up and the facilities will be commissioned by June, 1997.

(c) Other measures which have been emphasised to avoid air accidents are strict adherence by Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs), ATC procedures and instructions laid down, usage of standard phraseology between crew and ATCs and proper maintenance of navigational, communication and landing facilities.

Agreement with Portugal on Opening of New Airlines

2425. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently signed an agreement with Portugal on opening of new airlines and more understanding in Civil Aviation Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether similar agreement has been signed with other European country during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) The Air Services Agreement between India and Portugal was signed on 6th February, 1997.

(b) The Agreement enables the designated airline of India to operate air services to Lisbon and that of Portugal to Bombay through specified intermediate points and to points beyond. The frequency of services and capacity will be jointly determined by the aeronautical authorities of the Contracting States from time to time.

(c) Air Services agreement have been finalised/signed with Finland, Ukraine, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Slovakia and Czech Republic during the last two years.

Capacity utilisation of Indian Airlines

2426. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the passenger traffic carried by Indian Airlines has increased during the period 1990-91 to 1996-97 but the capacity utilisation has gone down; and

(b) if so, the capacity utilisation on Indian Airlines during each year 1990-91 to 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

सूरत में विमानपत्तन का निर्माण किये जाने की मांग

2427. **श्री रामजी लाल:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वाणिज्य-मंडल के एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल ने सूरत (गुजरात) में एक विमानपत्तन का निर्माण किये जाने की मांग के संबंध में उनसे मुलाकात की थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उन्हें कोई आश्वासन दिया गया था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उपर्युक्त विमानपत्तन का निर्माण-कार्य कब तक आरम्भ हो जायेगा; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?